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For the more recent of the official results ungrudging thanks are due to the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. McAdoo, who has warmly seconded the National Commission of Fine Arts.

Secretary McAdoo's laudable service to the general artistic education and his sense of responsibility in this matter make it all the more regrettable that the Administration has not come up to the expectation of the country in some other æsthetic matters, in which it could have accomplished much.

THE MALL

In two respects, both connected with the beautification of Washington, the friends of artistic progress, who reckoned on the Administration's support, have been sadly disappointed. The first of these concerns the postponement of the construction of the new official buildings for the Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce and Labor, the architects of which were chosen by competition in 1911. The need of a beautiful building for the State Department, to replace the conglomerate structure of the Mullett era, has long been recognized. To say nothing of the artistic defects of the present building, it has no adequate provision for diplomatic congresses, receptions, or hospitalities. Mr. Brunner's design for the new building was recognized as meeting all practical as well as æsthetic requirements, but the construction was indefinitely "hung up" by Secretary Bryan. Moreover, no progress has been made in the execution of the other buildings—that for the Department of Justice designed by Mr. Donn Barber and that for the Department of Commerce and Labor designed by Messrs. York and Sawyer, the whole group conforming to the Burnham-McKim-Olmsted plan for the rearrangement of the public business of Washington by an orderly, harmonious and effective disposition of the needed new buildings. It is greatly to be hoped that the Administration will feel its responsibility for taking up this part of the great project and carrying it to a finish, in consultation with the Commission of Fine Arts, which has done, and is still doing great service to the country.

THE POWER HOUSE AND SMOKESTACK INVASION

The other point we have in mind is of much more importance, for it involves something more than negligence, namely: indifference to the large artistic treatment of Washington city, a national asset

of which Americans are justly proud. We refer to the action of Secretary McAdoo, unfortunately confirmed by the President, in approving the construction of the Government Heat and Power Plant, the position of which, as planned, will seriously damage, from many points of view, the beauty of the Capitol and the Washington Monument. The President, who made an irreparable error in permitting the national beauty of the Hetch Hetchy Valley to be sacrificed unnecessarily to commercialism, should find some way to retreat from the untenable position in which this new blunder has placed him.

On page 74 will be found a detailed presentation by means of drawings reproduced from those in *Art and Archaeology* of the evil effects which would be caused by this unfortunate mistake, which is all the greater by reason of the fact that one of the most difficult things in the world is to rid ourselves of wretched official architecture, constructed by untrained hands in the sacred name of Beauty.

In general, it cannot be too often insisted—since the personnel of our Senators and Representatives is constantly shifting—that among statesmen the beginning of wisdom in architecture, painting and sculpture is a humble recognition that some phases of art, like engineering, are a matter of technical knowledge. To know—or even to suspect—that one does *not* know, is a long step in candor toward the acceptance of the judgment of those who are qualified by experience and training to direct the public.

THE FACTORY PLAN OF BUILDING POST OFFICES

The recent proposal to construct post offices hereafter on the factory plan is a "practical" move in the wrong direction and one which, for even more practical reasons, the public is likely to disapprove. It is not "economical" to impair the pride of our people—in this case both a local and a national pride—by laying down a rule that the public business shall be housed inartistically. The dignity of the nation should be reflected in the beauty of the structures which represent it to the imagination of the beholder, and which, entrusted to capable architects, stimulate the patriotism and self-respect of the citizens. If we wish the people to be proud of our cities, we must give them cities to be proud of. The country has a right to expect from the President, as a cultivated gentleman of large horizon, an enlightened oversight of all such enterprises and a no less cordial support of the Commission of Fine Arts than it uniformly had from Presidents Roosevelt and Taft.

BARTLETT'S PEDIMENT FOR THE CAPITOL

ON the 2nd of August, 1916, was unveiled a new group of statuary placed in the tympanum of the House wing of the Capitol at Washington. There were present on this occasion many notables of the country. Addresses were made by the Hon. Champ Clark, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and by the sculptor Paul W. Bartlett, giving the point of view from which the latter made his composition.

The solution of the problem of properly decorating the left tympanum of the National Capitol, the most

majestic building on earth, has been one of the most important Art matters in the control of the U. S. Government. Hence, the entrusting of this problem to Mr. Bartlett for a solution, is a manifestation of an appreciation of his talent, as a sculptor, of which he has every right to be proud. It is too early to estimate the degree of success with which he has solved this problem. Meanwhile, the "appreciation" of Mr. Brown is most interesting reading to those who love our splendid Capitol. See page 41